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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. It is noted that in the Office Action Summary Sheet enclosed with the office action of January 27, 2004, the examiner has indicated that claims 14-17 are allowed, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 18, and 19 are rejected, and claims 3, 5-7, and 10-12 are objected to. It appears, however, an incorrect detailed action was attached to the Office Action Summary Sheet, as pages 2-5 of the office action list a serial number of 10/288,292. Attached herewith is a copy of the office action of January 27, 2004, that applicants received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. On February 6, 2004, the examiner indicated in a telephone conversation with the undersigned that a new, corrected office action would be sent. However, the applicants' attorneys have not received a new, corrected office action.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(b), applicants respectfully submit that the office action of January 27, 2004, is incomplete and request the issuance of a corrected office action, which automatically establishes a new date from which the statutory period runs.

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD

Applicants' attorneys, Gregory C. Mayer (Reg. No. 38,238) and Marla L. Hudson (Reg. No. 43,680), held a telephonic interview with Examiner Mahmoud Gimie on January 15, 2004.

During the interview, Masaki USPN 4,280,471 (i.e., the cited reference) was discussed in relation to independent claims 1, 14, and 18. Specifically, applicants' attorneys pointed out that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest a linear actuator as recited in independent claims 1 and 18, or an actuator rod directly driven by the apparatus adapted for linear movement along the second axis as recited in independent claim 14. Examiner Gimie advised the undersigned attorneys that claim 1 would be rendered allowable over the cited reference if it more clearly distinguished between a first axis and a second axis, as recited in claim 14. While no agreement was reached, Examiner Gimie stated that he would further review the cited reference in light of our comments and allow the claims if he agrees with our remarks.

The applicants' attorneys thank Examiner Gimie for the courtesy of granting the telephonic interview and for the examiner's helpful comments during the interview.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

March 3, 2004

By: Marla L. Hudson
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,832	12/21/2001	Rod Fensom	27581/99215	4938
4743	7590	01/27/2004	EXAMINER	
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP			GIMIE, MAHMOUD	
6300 SEARS TOWER			ART UNIT	
233 S. WACKER DRIVE			PAPER NUMBER	
CHICAGO, IL 60606			3747	

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2004

MARSHALL GERSTEIN

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2004

Docketed: 4-27-04

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/036,832

Applicant(s)

FENSOM ET AL.

Examiner

Mahmoud Gimis

Art Unit

3747

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by this Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,8,9,13,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5-7 and 10-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 9
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Overview Of Office Action

1. The finality of the last office action has been drawn in view of the telephone interview on 1/15/04.
2. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application

Drawings

3. Figures 4-6 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1,3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art of figures 4-6 in view of Bergstrom et al (5,328,100).

Figures 4-6 show a high-pressure fuel supply system comprising: a low-pressure fuel suction passage (2) connected with a fuel tank (10); a high-pressure fuel discharge passage (4) connected with a delivery pipe (16) which is in turn connected with a fuel

injection valve[s] (17); a [high pressure] fuel pump arranged between said low-pressure fuel suction passage and said high-pressure fuel discharge passage and being operable, during reciprocation of a piston in a sleeve, to open a suction valve to suck fuel from said low-pressure fuel suction passage (2) into a fuel pressurization chamber on a suction stroke and to open a discharge valve to discharge the fuel in said fuel pressurization chamber to said high-pressure fuel discharge passage (4) on a discharge stroke; a relief passage (6) connecting between said fuel pump and said low-pressure fuel suction passage; and an electromagnetic valve (7) arranged on said relief passage and adapted to be opened to control an amount of fuel discharged from said fuel pump on a discharge stroke; said electromagnetic valve comprising: a plunger (40); a valve seat (42) with which said plunger is caused to move into and out of contact so that said valve seat is placed into fluid communication with said fuel pressurization chamber when said plunger is moved apart from said valve seat; a stopper (43) for limiting the distance of separation of said plunger from said valve seat; an armature (45) made of a magnetic material and fixedly secured to said plunger; a core (46) arranged in an opposed relation with said armature; a solenoid [coil] (47) wound around said core (46) for attracting said armature (45) toward said core through an electromagnetic force when energized; and a spring (48) for urging said plunger (40) in a direction toward or away from said valve seat (42).

Figures 4-6 do not show a groove formed in the vicinity of opposed surfaces of said armature (45) and said core (46) for magnetically saturating a portion of a magnetic circuit generated by energizing said solenoid.

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Bergstrom (5,328,100) shows a groove (30) formed in the vicinity of opposed surfaces of an armature (20) and a core (14) for magnetically saturating a portion of a magnetic circuit generated by energizing said solenoid.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the admitted prior art by using a groove in the vicinity of opposed surfaces of the armature and the core. The motivation to do so would have been for reducing certain audible operating noise from the solenoid valve, see column 1, ll. 10-11.

With regard to claim 3, said groove (30) is formed in said armature (20).

With regard to claim 4, said groove (20) is formed apart 2-4 mm from an attraction surface of at least one of said core and said armature.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art (APA) of figures 4-6 in view of Bergstrom (5,207,387).

The APA shows all the limitations as applied to claims as applied to claims 1,3 and 4 above, except for the groove being formed in the core.

Bergstrom (5,207,387) discloses a groove (30) formed in the core (14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the APA by forming a groove in the core as disclosed by Bergstrom. The motivation to do so would have been for reducing certain audible operating noise from the solenoid valve, see column 1, ll. 9-11.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited references show solenoid valves.


8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject-matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mahmoud Gimie whose telephone number is 703-305-1037. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. -3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Yuen can be reached on 703-308-1946. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.

M Gimie


MAHMOUD GIMIE
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3747

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/036,832	FENSOM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mahmoud Gimie	3747	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Mahmoud Gimie, Primary Examiner.

(3) Gregory C. Mayer, attorney.

(2) Marla L. Hudson, attorney.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 15 January 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-19.

Identification of prior art discussed: Masaki (4,280,471).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicants' attorneys pointed out that Masaki's does not show a linear actuator as required by claims 1 and 18, and the actuator rod (shaft) directly driven by the apparatus adapted for linear movement along a second axis as recited in claim 14. Examiner will fully consider the arguments presented in further review of the reference of Masaki.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/036,832	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination FENSOM ET AL.	
	Examiner Mahmoud Gimle	Art Unit 3747	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,346,173 A	09-1994	Rasmusson, Bjorn	251/58
	B	US-4,535,813	08-1985	Spain, Robin L.	137/625.5
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	D					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTO-892 (Rev. 01-2001)

Notice of References Cited

Part of Paper No. 10